



## TIP OF THE SPEAR

### VETERANS AMONG FALLEN 'HOTSHOT' FIREFIGHTERS



Two of the 19 "Hotshot" firefighters who lost their lives June 30 in the Yarnell Hill fire in Prescott, Ariz., were former Marines. William Warneke, 25, served four years in the Corps, and was deployed to Iraq during that time. His wife, Roxanne, is expecting the couple's first child in December. Travis "Turby" Turbyfill, 27, leaves behind two daughters. "He's this big, huge Marine, Hotshot guy, and he has two little girls, reddish, blonde curly hair, and they just loved their dad," said Tony Burris, a trainer at Turbyfill's gym. [Read more](#)

**Also Read: Personal Stories of 19**

**Firefighters Killed in Arizona Fire Emerge**



## **PHOTO OF THE WEEK**



Lance Cpl. Spurgeon W. Centers III, with Transportation and Support Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 2, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, executes a pull-up during a fire team challenge at Camp Lejeune, N.C., June 27. Marines with the unit competed against each other to receive a meritorious mast from the company commander. *(Photo by Cpl. Devin Nichols)*



## IN THE NEWS

### MARINE BARRACKS WASHINGTON WELCOMES FIRST FEMALE SERGEANT MAJOR



Sgt. Maj. Angela M. Maness took the reins of the "Oldest Post of the Corps" as the new sergeant major of Marine Barracks Washington June 27, being the first woman in history to fill the role. Maness served in Iraq and Afghanistan, earning numerous awards to include the Meritorious Service Medal with a gold star, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with two gold stars and a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with two gold stars. She replaced Sgt. Maj. Eric J. Stockton, who has served in the command since April 2010. [Read more](#)

### CMC: TRANSITION IN AFGHANISTAN AHEAD OF SCHEDULE



Marine Corps security handoff and equipment recovery efforts in southern Afghanistan are both ahead of schedule, Gen. James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps, said July 1. The efforts are part of NATO's International Security Assistance Force. The main area of focus has been advise-and-assist teams drawn from across the coalition's forces, which work with individual Afghan army and police kandaks, or battalions, and their headquarters. Over the next year, Marine forces in Helmand will focus on advising at the corps, brigade and provincial government level, and the remaining two infantry battalions will also serve as a transitional "shock absorber" for Afghan forces' logistics, sustainment and training. [Read more](#)

### MARINES 'NOT LEAVING A SINGLE THING' IN AFGHANISTAN



Gen. James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps, announced June 26 that every single piece of Corps equipment will leave Afghanistan with the troops, or will purposefully be given to another country. Across-the-board budget cuts make this repurposing a necessity. "We've got to get it out, because that stuff has to go to the depot," Amos said. "Under sequestration, I need to reset it so we can use it." Thus far, the Marine Corps has withdrawn between 65 and 70 percent of its equipment. [Read more](#)

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## MARINES EXPEDITE PATH TO US CITIZENSHIP



Five Marine recruits graduated from boot camp July 5, and became U.S. citizens in the process. The pilot program expedites the path to U.S. citizenship, by allowing recruits to study for and pass the citizenship requirements while at boot camp. "It is an awesome feeling," said Pfc. Julio Aquirre, one of the first five to take advantage of Marine Corps' new pilot program. Members of the group came from England, El Salvador, India, and Mexico to be Marines. [Read more](#)

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## WWII MARINE HONORED AT HER 90TH



Josephine "Jo" Del Castilho, a World War II Marine, celebrated her 90th birthday July 3 with friends, family, and the Marine Corps honor guard. Del Castilho, who enlisted after the Dec. 7, 1941 attacks on Pearl Harbor, was among the second group of women to go through boot camp. Her service ended in November 1945, and her husband (also a Marine) returned home April 1946. During their retirement, they were increasingly active in veterans organizations and the U.S. Marine' Toys for Tots campaign. "I'm very proud to be a Marine," she said. "Once a Marine, always a Marine." [Read more](#)

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## TWO FEMALE MARINES FAIL INFANTRY TEST





Two women were among the 18 Marines who did not pass the combat endurance test on opening day of the service's Infantry Officer Course (IOC) July 2 at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va. Six women to date have volunteered for the 13-week program to train as infantry officers, to help research the feasibility of opening the ground combat field to women. Former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta lifted the ban on women under the 1994 ground combat exclusion policy in January, establishing a 2016 deadline for implementing the changes or requesting an exception keeping women out of combat specialties. [Read more](#)

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## PLATINUM LION 13 UNDERWAY IN BULGARIA



Nearly 200 U.S. Marines and Sailors with Black Sea Rotational Force 13 joined soldiers from Bulgaria, Romania and Serbia, July 8 at Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria, to commence Exercise Platinum Lion 13. Platinum Lion, which will run through July, marks the first time a force will operate out of the new administrative and support facilities constructed in Novo Selo, completed in December 2012. The exercise allows the forces to practice stability, counterinsurgency, and peacekeeping operations in order to build partner nation capacity, enhance interoperability between countries and increase the overall effectiveness of the participating

partnered nations. [Read more](#)



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

### JULY 11, 1798

President John Adams signed an Act of Congress which reestablished the United States Marine Corps and authorized a drum major, a fife major, and 32 drums and fifes. This Act planted musical

roots that would grow from a small group of fifiers and drummers into a world-class military musical organization with the mission to provide music for the President of the United States and the Commandant of the Marine Corps.



## SEMPER FI

### CARRYING FAMILY LEGACY, EARNING TITLE MARINE



Pfc. Marcus J. Hamilton has carried on his family legacy by enlisting in the Marine Corps -- he is now the third Marine in his family. Hamilton was not always on the right path and turned to his brothers, a captain and a sergeant in the Marines, for advice. "They always talked to me. They would tell me I needed to take care of business," Hamilton said. "They didn't want me to fail in life and end up in jail." With recruit training completed, Hamilton is continuing to achieve success by establishing personal goals. [Read more](#)

## OUR MISSION

*In the words of Lt. Gen. Victor H. "Brute" Krulak, "The United States does not need a Marine Corps...the United States wants a Marine Corps." As America's Expeditionary Force in Readiness, the Marine Corps is deployed across the globe, standing ready to respond to any crisis. The Marine Corps Connection is your one-stop source for the latest Marine Corps news and is published weekly by the Division of Public Affairs at Headquarters Marine Corps. **Stay connected to your Marines!***



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